

TERMS.—One copy per annum, \$1.50.
If not paid within the year, \$2.00.
All advertisements, unless otherwise
noted, are charged at the rate of
one cent per line for the first week,
and one-half cent for each subsequent
week.

RATES OF ADVERTISING.
Per square, (of 10 lines), three insertions, \$1.
For each subsequent insertion, .50.
Business Cards of five lines, per annum, \$4.
Special Notices, inserted, double the above rates.
All short advertisements, such as Liberator,
Lost, Found, Extras, Notices, &c., not probably
making over three lines, are charged at \$1. and
to save the trouble of book-keeping and collecting,
must invariably be accompanied with the cash.
*Advertisements inserted till ordered (if) unless
otherwise ordered.

JOB PRINTING.
Our Printing establishment was never in better
condition than now, and increased attention will
be given to this branch of business. We keep
on hand and print, in the most perfect manner,
and on the shortest notice, all kinds of
Circulars, Bills, Headers, Labels, Circulars, Book-
lets and Wedding Cards, &c., &c., at short notice.
Orders by mail will be carefully attended to, and
the work forwarded with despatch.

The Red Petticoat.
BY CHARLES MACKEY.
Oh, the red, the flaming petticoat,
That loves to flare and be admired,
And blinks from far away
If some delight in seeing night,
And charms the fancy eye,
But if its wearer's half as bold,
I'll pass and let her be—
Who wears the flaming petticoat,
She won't the girl for me!
But the white, the modest petticoat,
As pure as drifted snow,
That shows the gown in crowded ways,
Where follows come and go,
It strikes the purview on its path,
Or daisies on the lawn,
And if the wearer's like the garb,
How beautiful her modesty,
With her white, her modest petticoat,
Oh, she's the girl for me!
But red or white, it matters not,
If she be good and fair,
Herself shall sanctify the garb.
It places her before the world,
The red shall show her warmth of heart,
And spirit frank and free—
The blue her truth, the pink her love,
The white her purity.
If these her colors—these her charms—
Oh, she's the girl for me!

Agricultural Shorter Catechism.

What are Tiles?—A Yankee invention for
draining pockets; so called from resemblance
to the prevailing style of gentlemen's hats.
What is Buckskin?—Masculine wheat.
The female is called dough.
What is Breaking?—A western phrase sig-
nifying a regular smash-up of matrimony.
The present pressure has been so heavy as to
break things generally out west.
What are wild Oats?—A kind of grain usu-
ally sown broadcast by farm boys—good food
for fast horses.
What is Colic?—A plant popular among
tailors, with which families of princely dom-
estics are vegetated but preserved?—Place
them in a cellar's hands—or bury them in
poach-pits.
What is the Bean Disease?—Pole-evil.
What is Garden "Sax"?—Cultivated im-
permeance.
What Fruit pleases Garretts?—Choke-
berries. They are also familiar with the art-
choke.
Why are People with Corns like certain
Vegetables?—Because they are too many.
Is there a Vegetable Hen?—Yes; the egg-
plant.
How can Young Ladies somewhat secure
Fame?—I like to see gentlemen.
Why are Outlets Hated?—Because they
read only stable literature.

PHILOSOPHY OF SKATING.—This is the amuse-
ment and exercise which most interests us,
just now; and it is charming to find it well
described upon the pages of the Caledonian.
The fastidious amateur seeks for virgin fields of
ice on which he may cut the first delicate
figures, but the masses have better to con-
gregate together on some spacious pond, for
mutual amusement, and for universal
cheerfulness, good-nature, and unreserved
delight, give us a grand, huge skating party.
It is wonderful how a big piece of ice can
warm one's heart towards one's fellows. This
sudden popular passion for skating is a good
thing. Our young ladies, and our young
men, too, will be none the worse for the un-
warranted exercise of winter, although the
indulgence is a little more violent than we
are likely to be sustained in future years.
But the accomplishment of skating, once ac-
quired, is rarely given up. It is a most fasci-
nating sport, and those who taste it love
this season will doubtless follow it up the
next.

PREVAILING MODES.—Ladies wear high
heels to gaiters, capes with bonnets, and as
much material in the skirts as can be gath-
ered at the waist. Flounces, with elaborate
trimmings, are general; and, in fact, every-
thing that can make a spread.
Gentlemen wear well-crowned hats, with
rims narrow and much turned down, and
or narrow standing English collars, made
like a band close around the throat; small
neckkerchiefs, or scarf drawn through a finger
ring, vests and coats with waists where they
ought to be; touching the hips; large pants
about as good as gaiters, usually, or boots
made to fit the foot, and some have long
narrowly pointed shoes. Canes are seldom used,
except the ornamental wand for exquisites,
and substantial sticks for the elderly. The
hair is worn longer than formerly, and full
beards are becoming universal.—Home Jour-
nal.

ONE OF THE BOYS.—The Rev. H. W. B. a
distinguished clergyman of Brooklyn, was
taken on a stage sleigh from the depot in W—
(a New England town, where railroad com-
munication then ended), to P—, a place
fifty miles distant, where he was to lecture
that evening. It was a warm February day;
the sleighing was splendid. It was on the
box beside a young driver; the teams of four
horses, each, were perfection, and the result
was that the fifty miles were got over in some-
thing like four hours—pretty good railroad time
on some tracks. But it didn't do the
man any good, and he never visited there af-
ter. His knowledge of their condition came to the
prior of the line, he called up that particular
driver (Sam) and asked how he had come to
drive his horses that day at such a rate.
"Well," said Sam, "I had one of the boys on
the box with me; he wanted to see 'em go,
and I put 'em through!"

FALSE WIT.—False wit, like false money,
only passes current with those who have no
means of comparison.

SOLID TRUTH.—"They pass best over the
world," said Queen Elizabeth, "who trip over
it quickly; for it is but a bog—if we stop we
sink."

HIBERNIAN LOGIC.—An Irishman, on being
told that the newly-invented stove would just
save half the usual fuel, replied, "Arrah, then,
I'll have two, and save it all, my jewel!"
Every policeman in London walks
about twenty miles a day, besides attending
the police office. The regulations for commu-
nication are so perfect that if it were requi-
site the whole force might be assembled to-
gether in two hours.

The Caledonian.

VOL. 21-NO. 37. ST. JOHNSBURY, VT., SATURDAY, MAR. 20, 1858. WHOLE NO. 1077.

Timothy Titcomb's Letters to Young Women.

NUMBER THREE.
From the Springfield Republican.

It is a matter of special importance to you
that you comprehend and thoroughly appre-
ciate the difference between accomplishments
and scientific and literary acquisitions. A
woman may have many acquisitions, and no
accomplishments, in the usual meaning of that
word, and vice versa. As the life of woman
goes in this country, these acquisitions per-
form their most important office in the pro-
cess by which they are achieved—that is the
great work which they do for a woman is that
of training and disciplining her mind. Many
a woman thoroughly learned Algebra at
school, with decided advantage to herself,
who never makes a practical use of Algebra.
She may have been a good Latin or Greek
scholar, but, having no important use for her
acquisition in practical life, she suffers her
knowledge of those languages to fade out.
In short, there are very few of her text-books
which, in five years after leaving school, she
would not be obliged to review with the se-
verest study before she could re-acquire the
credit she won in her last examination. A
woman may have a pet acquisition which she
transforms, by her manner of treatment, into
an accomplishment. Botany is thus trans-
formed not unfrequently, into a very graceful
thing.

An accomplishment differs from a science,
or a system of truth of any kind, acquired
during the process of education, in that it
tends to be permanent and so far as possible
perfect to be of any use to the individual or
to society. Music, drawing, conversation,
composition, the French language, dancing—
all these in America are regarded as accom-
plishments; yet of fifty women who acquire
either of them, or all of them, not more than
two retain them.

Miss Georgiana Atkins Green was an
intimate friend of mine, or, rather, per-
haps I should say, her mother's brother board-
ed my horse, and I bought my meat of her
father. It was the determination of Mrs.
Green that her daughter should be a finished
lady. During the finishing process I saw but
little of her. It occupied three years, and
was performed at a fashionable boarding-
school, between the ages of fifteen and eigh-
teen, regardless of expense. When she was
finished off, she was brought home in triumph,
and exhibited on various occasions to crowds
of admiring friends. I went one evening to
see her. She was really very pretty, and
took up her role with aplomb, and acted ad-
mirably. I saw a portfolio lying upon her
piano, and knowing that I was expected to
see upon it at once, I did so, against Miss
Green's protestations, which she was expected
to make, of course. I found in it various
pencil drawings, a crayon head of the infant
Samuel, and a terrible shipwreck in India.

The sketches were not without merit. These
were all looked over, and praised, of course.
Then came the music. This was some years
ago, and the most memorable is that she played
O Dolce Concerto with the variations, and
The Battle of Prague, the latter of which the
mother explained to me during its progress.
The pieces were cleverly executed, and then I
undertook to talk with the young woman. I
gathered from her conversation that Mrs.
Martinet, the principal of the school where
she had been finished, was a lady of "so much
style" that Miss Kittleton of New York was
the dearest girl in the school and that she
(Georgiana) and the said Kittleton were such
friends that they always dressed alike; and
that Miss Kittleton's brother Fred was a mag-
nificent fellow. The last was said with a blush
from the embarrassment of which she es-
caped gracefully by stating that the old Kit-
tleton was a banker, and rolled in money.

It was easy to see that the parents of this
dear girl admired her profoundly. I pitied
her and them, and determined, as a matter
of duty, that I would show her just how much
her accomplishments were worth. I accord-
ingly asked of my wife the favor to invite the
whole family to tea, in a quiet way. They ac-
cided, on the appointed evening, and after tea
was over, I expressed my delight that there
was one young lady in our neighborhood who
could do something to elevate the tone of our
society. I then drew out, in a careless way,
a letter I had just received from a French-
man, and asked of Georgiana the favor to
read it to me. She took the letter, blushed,
went half through the first line correctly,
then broke down on a simple word, and con-
fessed that she could not read it. It was a
little cruel; but I wished to do her good, and
proceeded with my experiment. I took up a
piece of music, and asked her if she had seen it.
She had not. I told her there was a pleasure
in store for both of us. I had heard the
song once, and I would try to sing it if she
would play the accompaniment. She declar-
ed she could not do it without practice, but I
told her she was too modest by half. So I
dragged her, protesting, to the piano. She
knew she should break down. I knew she
would, and she did. Well, I would not let
her rise, for Mr. and Mrs. Green were fond
of the old-fashioned church music, and had
been singers in their day, and in their way.
I selected an old tune, and called them to the
piano to assist. Miss Green gave us the key,
and we started off in fine style. It was a race
to see which would come out ahead. Geo-
rgiana won, by skipping most of the notes.—
She rose from the piano with her cheeks as
red as a beet.

"By the way," said I, "Georgiana, your
teacher of drawing must have been an excel-
lent one." I did not tell her that I had evi-
dence of this in her own efforts at art, but I
touched the right spring, and the lady gave
me the teacher's credentials, and told me what
such and such people said of her. "Well,"
said I, "I am glad if there is one young wo-

man who has learned drawing properly. Now
you have nothing to do but to practice your
delightful art, and you must do something
for the benefit of your friends. I promised
a sketch of my house to a particular friend,
at a distance, and you shall come up to-mor-
row and make one. I remember that beauti-
ful cottage among your sketches; and I should
prize a sketch of my own, even half as well
done, very highly. The poor girl was blush-
ing again, and from the troubled countenances
of her parents, I saw that they had begun in-
distinctly to comprehend the *shallowness*—
the absolute worthlessness—of the accom-
plishments that had cost them so much.—
Georgiana acknowledged that she had never
sketched from nature—that her teacher had
never required it of her, and that she had no
confidence that she could sketch so simple
an object as my house. The Greens took an
early leave, and I regret to say a cool one.
They were mortified; and there was not good
sense enough in the girl to make an improve-
ment of the hints I had given her.

The Green family resided upon a street
that I always took on my way to the post-of-
fice, and there was rarely a pleasant evening
that did not show their parlor light, and with
company within. I heard the same old vari-
ations of O Dolce Concerto evening after
evening. The Battle of Prague was fought
over and over again. The portfolio of draw-
ings, (such of them as had not been ex-
pressively framed) was exhibited, I doubt not,
to admiring friends, until they were soiled with
thumbing. At last, Georgiana was engaged,
and then she was married—married to a very
good fellow, too. He loved music, loved paint-
ing, and loved his wife. Two years passed
away, and I determined to ascertain how the
pair got along. She was the mother of a fine
boy, whom I knew she would be glad to have
me see. I called, was treated cordially, and
saw the identical old portfolio, on the identi-
cal old piano. I asked the favor of a tune.
The husband, with a sigh, informed me that
Georgiana had dropped her music. I looked
about the walls, and saw the crayon Samuel,
and the awful shipwreck in India ink. Alas!
the echoes of the Battle of Prague that came
back over the field of memory, and these sad-
ding mementoes around me, were all that re-
mained of the accomplishments of the late
Miss Georgiana Atkins Green!

Now, young women, I think you will not
need any assurance from me that I have drawn
a genuine portrait, for which any number of
your acquaintances may have played the origi-
nal. What do you think of accomplishments
like these? How much do they amount to?
My opinion of them is that they are the
shabbiest of all things that can be associated
with a woman's life and history. I have told
you this story in order to show you the im-
portance of incorporating your accomplish-
ments with your very life. It is comparative-
ly an easy task to learn a few times by rote,
to get up with the assistance of a teacher a
few drawings, to go through with a few French
exercises, but it is not so easy to learn the
science of music, and get through the manual
practice necessary to make the science avail-
able under all circumstances. It is not easy
to sketch with facility from nature. It is not
easy to comprehend the genius of the French
language, and so to familiarize yourself with
it that it shall ever remain an open language
to you, and give you a key to a new litera-
ture. A true accomplishment is won only by
hard work; but when it is won, it is a part
of you, which nothing but your own neglect
can take away from you. And now let me
tell you a secret. Multitudes of married men
are led to seek the society of other women,
or go out among their own fellows, and often
into bad habits, because they have drunk ev-
ery exact of life which their wives can give
them. They have heard all their tunes, seen
all their efforts at art, sounded their minds,
and measured every charm, and they see
that henceforth there is nothing in the
society of their wives but insipidity. They mar-
ried women of accomplishments, but they see
never a new development, no improvement.
Their wives can do absolutely nothing. The
shell is broken; the egg is eaten.

The first accomplishment that I would urge
upon you is that of using the English lan-
guage with correctness, elegance and facility.
There are comparatively few young women
who can write a good note. I know of hard-
ly one who can punctuate sentences properly.
I beg of you, never to write an affection
with a single f, or friendship with an i in
the first syllable. Such slips destroy the
words, and the sentiments they represent.
If you accomplish yourself in nothing else,
learn thoroughly how to use your mother
tongue. I remember one young woman with
whom when in youth I had the misfortune to
correspond. "Dr the barrenness of subjects
upon which to engage her pen, she once in-
quired by note whether I ever saw such a
spell of weather," as we had been having.
I frankly informed her that I never did, and
that I hoped she would never indulge in an-
other, for it made me feel cool. She took the
hint, and broke off the correspondence. There
are many who can write tolerably well, but
who cannot talk. Conversation I am inclin-
ed to rank among the greatest accomplish-
ments and the greatest arts. Natural ap-
pears has much to do with this, but no woman
can talk well who has not a good stock of de-
finite information. I may add to this that no
woman talks well and satisfactorily who reads
for the simple purpose of talking. There
must exist a genuine interest in the affairs
which most concern all men and women.—

The book, magazine and newspaper literature
of the time, questions of public moment, all
matters and movements relating to art, affairs
of local interest—all these a woman may
know something of, and know something defi-
nitely. Of all these she can talk if she will
try, because there is something in all which

excites feeling of some kind, and shapes it
self into opinion.

But whatever accomplishment a young
woman attempts to acquire, let her by all
means acquire it thoroughly, and keep it
bright. Accomplishments all occupy the field
of the arts. They are things which have no
significance or value save in the ability of
doing. They become, or should become, the
expressions of a woman's highest personality.
They are her most graceful forms of expres-
sion, and into them she can pour the stream
of her thoughts and fancies, and through
them utter the highest language of her nature
and her culture. Accomplishments make a
woman valuable to herself. They greatly in-
crease her pleasures, both directly in the prac-
tice, and indirectly through the pleasures
which she gives to society. A truly accom-
plished woman—one whose thoughts have
come naturally to flow out in artistic forms,
whether through the instrumentality of her
tongue, her pen, her pencil or her piano, is a
treasure to herself and to society. Such a
woman as this would I have you to be. There
may be something to interfere with your be-
ing all this; but this you can do: you can
acquire thoroughly every accomplishment for
which you have a natural aptitude, or you can
let it alone. Do not be content with a smat-
tering of anything. Do not be content to
play parrot to your teachers, until your les-
son is learned, and then think you are ac-
complished. Do not be content with medi-
ocrity in any accomplishment you undertake.
Do not be content to be a Miss Georgiana
Atkins Green.

TIMOTHY TITCOMB.
A Valentine.
ADDRESS TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTSMOUTH
CHAIRMAN.
I saw you one day, oh, Editor dear!
In your cozy office-chair,
With your indolent pen behind your ear—
(It usually seemed to me there)
You used the scissors, you used the paste,
And the Daily Chronicle grew;
And once in a while, in desperate haste,
You seized the pen, and, in excellent taste,
Invited an angry new!

A murder and burglary here and there,
A steamboat or railroad accident rare,
A pleasant fiction of stocks—
An account of a temperance meeting somewhere,
Or a great revelation, to make people stare,
From the knowingest spirit that knocks!

You put your foot on the table to rest,
And pronounced to-day's Chronicle one of the
best—
An exceedingly graphic sketch,
But you looked round the sanctum, and heaved a
low sigh,
And mournfully wished some dear praiser was
near.
But our eyes chanced not to meet!

Surely, the pleasantest thing in this life,
Were to be an agreeable editor's wife,
And up in the sanctum to stay—
And all among papers up to one's ears,
In a dear little room, with a dear little chair,
And help him to cut all day!

To turn the machine for the poems sometimes,
Or help disengage refractory rhymes,
From lines that poets must send—
No smoking to do, for we'll live on "puff" taste,
And let 'em that want matrimony, call on our
baste.
Why, we'd go and take tea with a friend!

My First Night Ashore.
SAUTHERN SKECH.
Captains G. and C. were both at Smyrna,
commanders of fine frigates, bound to Boston.
This was to be the last trip of both captains,
who, having scraped together a few thousand
dollars, intended to remain on shore and get
spliced; in other words, to take unto them-
selves wives. The period of our history was
"the good old times," when gold chains and
wooden legs, rum, tows, and bloody noses,
were in fashion, and when shipmasters, as
well as sailors, were in the habit of swearing
without rhyme or reason.

Now the two captains aforesaid were warm
personal friends, and entered into each other's
plans of future anticipated happiness with
as much interest as if they had been born
brothers. They overhauled the bad habits
they would have to discontinue, if they wish-
ed to appear respectable on shore, and among
such, swearing, they decided must be cut off
first. With this object in view, they bound
themselves in honor not to wear or use a
profane word during the passage home, and
to make themselves more careful, drew up in
writing an obligation, that the offending par-
ty should forfeit to the other the sum of \$100,
or, if both sinned, the amount of their obli-
gations should be appropriated towards "the
conversion of the heathen." They next dis-
cussed the use of rum and tobacco, but came
to the conclusion that these were necessities
of life at sea, and that it would be time
enough to cut them off gradually after they
were settled on shore. One thing at a time
was considered well enough, especially as
neither of the captains drank much for rum,
only as a means of erasing each other's
heads.

Full of good resolves and pleasant hopes,
they had a parting glass of two of unadul-
terated Jamaica, and then set sail with a fine,
whole-sail breeze, bound to Boston. Their
frigates were both armed clippers of 250 tons,
well manned and found. It was delightful to
see them "skimming side-by-side out of the
bay, with sky-sails fore and aft, and studding
sails on both sides; but when they reached
the Grecian Archipelago the wind came ahead
and they separated on opposite tacks, and
net no more during the passage.

The Crow was commanded by Captain G.,
and as we are mostly interested in her for-
tunes, we will give a brief sketch of her cap-
tain. He was about forty years of age, five
feet seven inches high, very stout, but not
fat. His face was full and open, and though
he could frown, a good-natured half-laugh
was habitual to him. One could always see
his teeth. He was a good man to all under
him, and like the general run of American
shipmasters, looked out sharply for the inter-
est of the owners.

With head winds and calms, his patience
was sorely tried in working down the Medi-

terranean, but he did not swear, and fortu-
nately he caught a fair slant through the
Straits of Gibraltar, while hundreds of vessels
were lying at anchor. Among them he
thought he saw the Pigeon, commanded by
his friend, but was not sure. With the broad
Atlantic before him, a fine vessel under his
feet, manned by as gallant a crew as ever
drove a ratlin, he clipped the canvas on her,
and away she went in glorious style. In
eighteen days he was within three hundred
miles of Boston, and made sure of being in
by New Year's day; but unluckily a tremen-
dous northwest gale came on, and he was
compelled to leave his vessel to, under a
close reefed main-top-sail. The gale increased
to a hurricane, blew away his top-sail, and
snapped away the main-yard in the slings.
The weather too, was intensely cold, so much
so that the sea froze almost as fast as it fell
upon her decks. Led up to the leading trucks,
and several of the crew disabled, he was com-
pelled to up stick and stand for the Gulf
Stream to be thawed, and at the same time
to have a chance to get another main-yard
aloft. Suffice it to say, after repairing dam-
age, he lost another main-yard and a whole
suit of belst, and was at one time so badly
frost-bitten that he was half inclined to bear
up for Bermuda; but remembering that a
Pigeon must also have the same gale, he
clung to weather it out while he had a stitch
of canvas to spread. After three weeks of
incessant toil, during which time he never
turned in or shifted his clothes, he was fortu-
nate enough to reach Boston at last. His
first question to the pilot, who boarded him,
was—

"Has the Pigeon arrived?"
"No, sir, not a vessel has arrived for three
weeks."
"Thank God," sighed Captain G. "I've got
along thus far without swearing, and it will
be (here he paused), no I won't say it, hard-
ly—that's the word without a handle to it—if
I don't get along with a clean mouth to the
wharf. Pilot, when you get her pointed right,
come down in the cabin and have a drop of
stuff to thaw your between-decks out."

Captain G. had been so much on deck, ex-
posed to the weather, that he was quite light-
headed, and his very eyes seemed to have been
diminished and puckered by incessant
watching, so that he only covered the bottom
of the glass, when he exchanged courtesies
with the pilot, aware that he was too weak to
dive deeper. It had been well for him, if he
had then resolved not to drink any more that
day, as the sequel will show.

His owners were upon the wharf to receive
him with a carriage, and the moment he land-
ed they hurried him to the custom house, en-
tered the vessel and then drove him to one
of their houses, where an excellent dinner
was ready. They were rejoiced, for his vessel
had a cargo on board which, in great
demand, besides they had won several
heavy bets from the owners and backers of
the Pigeon.

We will now relate Captain G.'s experience
in his own words, as nearly as we can remem-
ber:
"I had a glorious dinner, with such drink-
ing as ought to be a warning to all sailors,
who may be used up at sea. In vain I protested
against having my glass filled; the ladies in-
sisted and the gentlemen compelled me to
drink again and again, till I nearly fell from
my chair. At last I became desperate, for I
felt myself gradually sinking into insensibil-
ity; and jumping abruptly from the table, I
stumbled in a voice of thunder, that I should
be sent home, without further parley. The
weather was awful, a heavy fall of snow was
melting under the influence of a south-west
rain storm, avalanches were thundering from
the tops of the houses, and the streets were
covered with gullies a fathom deep. My
mother, brother and sisters resided in Rox-
bury, and I may add, my sweetheart also, all
of whom I knew would be waiting to receive
me with open arms. A carriage and four
were soon placed at my disposal, with a steady
driver, to carry me home, and as we wal-

lowed through Washington street, and across
the Neck, I enjoyed a few cat-naps, waking
up now and again, full of the idea that I was
still at sea, and that the brig had either
broached to or fallen off by the lee. A scram-
ble or two to get on deck, however, restored
me to consciousness, and again I would drop
off, only to be woken with another bold dash
to get on deck. When I reached home my
hat was full of cable-tieer pinches, and my face
was as black as my hat, even the red which
the rum had thrown over it was under clouds
of darkness. But all this made no difference
to my kind mother and sisters, nor to her
who was to be shortly mine forever; they
covered me with kisses and embraces, till I
was almost as drunk with joy, as I was with
rum. Stupid and weather-beaten as I was,
my heart beat wildly with pleasure as I re-
ceived their warm embraces; all the suffer-
ings of a life-time were forgotten in a moment,
but I felt myself drunk, my tongue was too
large for my mouth, and I could not speak
the joys I felt.

"The excitement of meeting over, my
sweetheart held a looking-glass before me,
and jokingly asked how long I had been in
the coal trade. It was evident that I had
been mopping the floor of the carriage with
my face. The ladies however soon put a
clean face upon me, curled my hair, and tried
to make me cheerful; but I was too far gone
to enjoy their company, so I asked my mother
to light me to bed. While following her up
stairs my head reeled; twice or thrice I fan-
cied myself once more on the brig, and when
I entered the bedroom, in answer to a request
to take off my boots, I addressed my mother
as the mate: 'Now, Mr. Brown, I said, keep
her on this tack till twelve o'clock, if no
change takes place in the weather, but if any
change happen, be sure and call me; so say-
ing, I bundled into bed, boots and all. A

minute or two afterwards, I opened my eyes,
and saw a light burning on the table, when
I jumped out of bed, and roared: 'You
steward, take away this light; how often
shall I tell you never to leave a naked light
anywhere? You'll make me swear yet, in
spite of anything I can do to avoid it.' My
brother came and took the light, so, once
more, boots and all, I bundled into bed.—
About midnight a terrible squall burst upon
the house; the window-blinds slammed from
side to side, the rain rushed down in torrents,
and the very house rocked to its foundation.
Full of the idea that I was still at sea, I
jumped out of bed, and landed on all fours
over a chair. There could be no mistake in
my imagination, the brig had been thrown
on her beam ends, and the sea was making a
fair beach over her; I thought I heard the
mate too, calling the men all, to cut away the
mainmast, the very last thing I would think
of doing. Determined to countermand the
order I scrambled to the cabin door, and
made a bold rush up the attic stairs to reach
the deck; but in my progress a long-handled
rat-trap seized me by the heel of my left boot
and went clucky-clank as I bounded up.
At the head of the stairs was a flat sky-light
through which the moon shed her troubled
light, and this was my companion-way. A
desperate dash at it, head on, like a bull at
a gate, sent it frame and all into the back-yard.
I was now in the companion-way and could
see the whole deck, and what a sight! There
lay the brig on her beam-ends, or nearly so,
for the roof of the house was to me deck;
she was pitching and rolling in the trough
of the sea, but her masts (the chimneys) were
still standing. Steadily myself as well as I
could in the companion-way, I mustered
courage, and roared out my usual style:
'Who's at the wheel?' 'Jim,' somebody an-
swered (it was probably the creaking of the
window-blinds below). 'Very well, Jim, ease
her a bit, she pitches, and take care she don't
pitch you overboard. Mr. Brown, Mr. Brown,'
was my next halloo, and distinctly I heard
him answer, 'Ay, ay, sir.' Send the men aft
at once, to clew the main-top-sail. Do you
hear me?' 'Hear I—', an old salt growled
out close to my ear. 'Who's that swearing;
bring the reprobate here and I'll skin him
alive. Did I not tell you I was going to do
all the swearing this passage myself?' Ease
her, ease her, Jim, I said, turning to the mate
at the wheel, for she pitched dreadfully. 'Mr.
Brown, Mr. Brown,' I bellowed out a dozen
times, but no answer. 'Mr. Brown, for the
last time and be—' to you I did not say it,
though I felt mad enough to swear through
a mile of billies, answer if you don't come.'
'Ay, ay, sir,' fell faintly on my ear, as if the
speaker were in the main-top.

"Raising my eyes aloft and changing my
position, I was almost swept out of the
companion-way, by a heavy sea, which came
thundering over the quarter, and swept the
decks fore and aft (it was the first instalment
of an avalanche), and filled the cabin.—
'Steward, steward, turn out, you lazy lubber,'
I was going to say) follow, and shut the
companion-way. Bring up my sweater with
you.' Turning my eyes again to the main-
top, I sung out: 'Don't you cut a rope-yarn,
Mr. Brown, or I'll kill you by—', by some-
thing, that's not swearing. Come down and
get the main-top-sail off her."

Becoming reckless, I turned my attention
again to the deck, and hallooed with all my
might: 'Men, lay aft here, and square
the head-ropes, for a sudden gust of wind
swept the main-top-sail, and left nothing but
the naked yards (it was no doubt an old
shirt or some other piece of linen, which had
been caught up by the gale and tossed across
the field of view). Rendered desperate by
having all my orders neglected, I made a bold
rush on deck, and scrambled to reach the
weather rail (the ridge of the roof), which I
effected with great difficulty, but did not
swear. And now, O, horror of horrors! the
brig was bottom up, and I alone was upon
the keel. Appalled with the disaster, I could
hardly pray. For a moment, I was silent,
but feeling the rat-trap still fast to my heel,
I ventured to cast a glance at it, and thought
I saw a man struggling to reach me (it was
an old red shirt which had become tangled
with the trap in the attic). My humanity
was aroused, but in reaching out my hand to
aid him, I lost my balance, and a heavy sea
(an avalanche) sweeping over me; away I
went overboard, heels uppermost, into a pile
of sloshy snow in the back yard.

"Here was a subject for a painter; an old
salt wrecked in a snow-pile, with a red shirt
hoisted on the handle of a rat-trap for a
signal of distress. How I struggled to the
surface I can't say, but in striking out, I
clutched a clothes line stretched across the
yard, and hung on for dear life till I got the
water out of my eyes. What a change met
my bewildered sight! The brig was booming
along under a crowd of canvas, and I was
towing astern; I could see the light in her
cabin windows.

"Halloa, there!" I shouted, halloo! on
deck, there! halloo, ship's ahoy, man over-
board!" when up went one of the gaping
windows, and my brother sung out:
'Who's there? What do you want?'
'Want you son of a—' (no, I daresn't
swear). What is there in swearing that
makes it so sweet to the taste of a sailor in
distress? But I had made up my mind not
to swear, and I smothered the rising maledic-
tion that was half-hatched in my mouth.

"Want—haul the main-sail up, back the
main-yard, and bring the brig to the wind.
Ease off the jib sheet. Do you hear? Down
with the helm, and stop her or she'll tow my
arms off. I can't hold on another minute!"
All this time I was holding on the clothes
line and striking out with both feet.

"In another minute lights were beaming
through every window, and soon women in
petticoats, and my brother in drawers, came

to the rescue. I was carried bodily into the
house. And such a picture! my face was
covered with blood, my shirt and waist-coat
were in tatters, and my pants were split from
clew to ending, but the rat-trap still stuck to
me like a brother.

"How came you in the yard?" inquired
my mother. 'What's the matter, brother?'
'Dear me,' said my sisters, 'How badly you
bleed,' said my sweet-heart. 'Tell me how
you have hurt yourself!'

"Stop, for mercy's sake don't ask any
more questions; I can't tell you without
swearing, and I'm under bonds not to swear!
What would I give to open my lower tier
upon everything an inch high, and an hour
old! But it must not